

SB 347-3 Would Decrease Public Safety

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The proposed amendment to SB 347, SB 347-3, would decrease public safety by increasing the risk of a negligent (“accidental”) discharge of firearms.

Under current law, Oregonians with a Concealed Handgun License (CHL) are allowed to possess a firearm while on school grounds. I am not aware of any adverse incidents caused by CHL holders on school grounds. SB 347 would make possession of firearm by a CHL holder while on school grounds illegal unless it was authorized by the school district. SB 347-3 would allow CHL holders to store their firearms in a “metal safe or vault” on school grounds, where they would be inaccessible and useless if the need for them arose.

Currently, the most common reason for an adult who is not a school employee to be on school grounds is to drop off or pick up their own children. Often that is done without the adult leaving their vehicle, although they are on school grounds. Again, there have been no problems associated with CHL holders doing that.

If SB 347 becomes law, a person licensed to carry a concealed handgun and carrying would be in violation of the law while waiting in their vehicle on school grounds to drop off or pick up their own children. In order to comply with SB 347-3, the licensed person would have to park their vehicle, get out, walk to the school office, unholster and handle

their firearm, and hand it to a school employee for placement in the “metal safe or vault”.

Any unnecessary unholstering and handling of a firearm increases the risk of a negligent (“accidental”) discharge of the firearm.

The firearm would be handled by a school employee who might have no prior experience with firearms and who might be extremely uncomfortable handling a firearm.

Handling of the firearm by a possibly untrained, inexperienced, uncomfortable, and nervous school employee increases the risk of a negligent (“accidental”) discharge of the firearm.

How much money would be wasted by schools installing “metal safes or vaults” that are rarely or never used?

Increased risk of negligent (“accidental”) discharge of firearms and money wasted installing “metal safes or vaults”, with no obvious benefit. It makes no one safer and in fact increases risk to the public.

SB 347-3 is a solution to a non-existent problem. It should be rejected.

Thank you for your attention.

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